

MINUTES  
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee  
Ashland County Forestry Dept. Office  
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514  
April 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Carl Kubley at 9:00 A.M.

Members present: Carl Kubley, Gary Mertig, Kathy Schutte and Frank Kempf.  
Absent: Jerry Teague - excused.

Others present: DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, DNR Forestry-Heather Berklund,  
U.S. Forest Service-Chad Jacobson, Forest Adm.-Chris Hoffman, Forester-Jerome Wotachek,  
Secretary-Marion Pohl and Town of Jacobs Supervisor-Dennis Walczyk.

The minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Gary Mertig,  
second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried.

Snowmobile trail business - Bill C. was unable to attend the meeting today. Chris reported that  
Bill had told him the snowmobile season was good, but short. The trail passes generated over  
\$2M, so now there is more money in the snowmobile trail grant fund. The grant fund was  
getting low due to less snowmobile registrations. By adding the trail pass requirement, this  
makes up the decline in the fund.

Recreation Officer's report - Jim C. was unable to attend the meeting today. Chris reported that  
Jim had told him that March was a slow month, and Jim was catching up on paperwork.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P. reported that the proposal of no antlerless permits is up for public  
comment. There is a deer advisory meeting April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Morse Town Hall. Tom reported he  
is setting a sale up in the Town of Morse.  
No fire season yet due to wet conditions.

Forest Adm.'s report - Chris H. reported that he advertised for quotes and sent out packets to  
area truck dealers for a 2016 truck with trade-in of a 2011 Ford 250. Chris said he received 3  
quotes for a 2016 truck which were opened Tuesday, April 5th. Chris gave the Committee the  
results which were - **Boyer Truck** - with trade - \$20,231-Ford; **Wheel Way** - with trade -  
\$26,391-Chev; **Ashland Ford** - with trade - \$13,991-Ford. Ashland Ford had the best quote.  
Chris asked the Committee for approval to purchase the 2016 Ford F350 XL from Ashland Ford.  
A motion was made by Gary Mertig, second by Kathy Schutte to approve the purchase of the  
2016 Ford F350 XL with the money coming from the non-lapsing vehicle account of \$10,000 and  
the balance to come from the non-lapsing timber sale revenue account. Motion carried.

Chris discussed highlights the 2015 Forestry Dept.'s annual report. The annual report will be given to the rest of the county board at the next county board meeting.

Chad Jacobson of the U.S. Forest Service came to the meeting to discuss the campground closures of last year. Two campgrounds - Stock Farm Bridge Campground in Town of Chippewa and Lake Three Campground in the Town of Marengo were closed. Kathy S. and Frank K. have been talking with the U.S. Forest Service and the towns to get these campgrounds open. The towns said they would take care of the maintenance. Also, the program "Experience Works" was discussed to hire people through this program for the maintenance. Another item of discussion was the cost of maintaining the campgrounds. Chad explained the Towns would submit an expense voucher to U.S. Forest Service for reimbursement. The biggest cost is the garbage collection. Some ideas were "pack in pack out", transfer garbage to towns' dumpsters. Water testing is another big expense. Kathy S. said the City of Ashland does water testing and is cheap. Chad said hazard trees would be cut down by the U.S. Forest Service. There is a meeting April 19th with the "Experience Works" people and U.S. Forest Service people with the Town of Chippewa and Town of Marengo boards to further advance the opening of the campgrounds.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Frank Kempf. Motion carried

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 9:00 A.M., Forestry Dept. Office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Gary Mertig. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 A.M.

Submitted by  
Marion Pohl